

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SCCT-01 A-01 SY-05 USSS-00

FBIE-00 /058 W

----- 063157

O 092150Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4309

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9631

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS ASEC PINT VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

1. DURING COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR OCTAVIO LEPAGE, THE MINISTER STATED THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS HAD RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE OFFERING OF REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO WILLIAM NIEHOUS. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOV WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE SUCH AN OFFER AND WAS SIMILARLY RELUCTANT TO PERMIT OWENS-ILLINOIS TO DO SO. THEY ARE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO PERMIT DONNA NIEHOUS " AND FRIENDS OF THE NIEHOUS FAMILY" TO DO SO AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MRS NIEHOUS RETURN TO CARACAS FOR SUCH A PURPOSE

2. IT WAS THE MINISTER'S THOUGHT THAT WITH DEPUTY SALOM MEZA ESPINOZA, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE KIDNAPPING, BEHIND BARS IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD HARM NIEHOUS. ONCE MEZA WAS TRIED AND SENTENCED, THIS WAS LESS LIKELY TO BE TRUE. HE THEREFORE THOUGHT THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO OFFER SUCH A REWARD.

3. JAKE LONGAN INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT DONNA NIEHOUS WAS IN FACT EXPECTED IN CARACAS TOMORROW AFTERNOON

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AT 2:20PM VIA PA-217, UNLESS THE FLIGHT WAS AFFECTED

BY HURRICANE BELLE. ACCORDING TO LONGAN, MRS NIEHOUS AND OWENS-ILLINOIS TOLEDO DID NOT YET KNOW THE REASON FOR HER RETURN TO CARACAS. WILLIAM COLEMAN IS STILL IN CARACAS AND HAS APPROVED THE PLAN. LONGAN SAID THAT THE REWARD WAS TO BE \$2 MILLION.

4. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, LONGAN STATED THAT RONALD KEW, A CANADIAN CITIZEN AND SALES MANAGER OF OWENS-ILLINOIS CARACAS, IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION AND HAS BEEN CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL. REPORTEDLY, THE GOV HAS EVIDENCE THAT KEW HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIST EMILIO CONDE JAHN AND SALOM MEZA ESPINOZA AND MIGHT HAVE MET WITH SALOM MEZA WALONE. ACCORDING TO LONGAN, KEW HAD INFORMED WILLIAM COLEMAN OF OWENS-ILLINOIS THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN SALOM MEZA FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, PINT, PORS, VE, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006